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## 96<sup>th</sup> STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Honorable Jeff Mayes

State Representative

CHAIR: House Energy and Technology Committee

As Utilities Director for the City of Midland, I would like to offer support of House Bill 5334. The City of Midland operates a licensed solid waste facility (landfill) in addition to providing residential solid waste and yard waste collection services to over 40,000 residents.

In 2007, the Midland Landfill modified its newest cell design to accommodate active gas collection, recirculation of leachate, and the inclusion of yard waste and/or sewage sludge to increase the production of methane being generated to fuel our proposed energy generation facility. The energy generating facility is designed to ultimately produce between 3.2 and 4.8 megawatts of electricity for use and/or sale. The project as presently being developed will reduce energy costs at the City's wastewater and water treatment plants by 50%, or \$450,000.00 annually.

By properly incorporating yard waste into our solid waste operation, we can reduce our collection costs and increase energy generated by our methane gas energy generating facility. Presently, our landfill utilizing only solid waste generates between 500 and 600 cubic feet per minute of landfill gas. By recirculating landfill leachate and incorporating yard waste, we expect to double our methane production to 1200 cubic feet per minute. This increase in production of methane will allow us to increase energy production by 1.6 MW, or \$900,000 in revenue per year.

A review of our landfill operating costs indicate that by reducing the size of our yard waste composting program we will see a savings of over \$50,000 per year in the operation of the landfill composting program. Presently the City utilizes dual stream refuse vehicles for the simultaneous collection of yard waste and residential solid waste to segregate the waste streams while minimizing the vehicle traffic past each residence. Using this system, vehicles frequently fill one side while the other has additional capacity. This requires the truck to break off its collection route early, travel to the landfill for disposal of both waste streams and return to the route in an inefficient manner. Additionally, dual stream trucks cost from \$40,000.00 to \$70,000.00 more than the standard single stream garbage truck. Placement of yard waste into the landfill would result in a single pass with heavy equipment for processing. By comparison,

yard waste composting on a separate pad requires that the material be handled over a dozen times and allows the waste gas to vent to the atmosphere during the months it takes to decompose. Combining yard waste and solid waste into a single stream truck will result in a time and money savings for the City.

From a business and environmental perspective, the City of Midland strongly supports House Bill 5334 and its provision to allow the placement of yard waste in landfill facilities designed to capture methane gas and utilize it in an energy generation facility. This amendment would not reduce employment in the City, but has the potential to accelerate new hire at the landfill/energy production facility.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noel Bush', with a large, stylized initial 'N'.

Noel Bush

Utilities Director

City of Midland

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